



US011744283B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Rivera

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,744,283 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 5, 2023**

(54) **METHOD OF PIERCING A CIGAR**

(56) **References Cited**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 53 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **17/501,746**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 14, 2021**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2022/0142242 A1 May 12, 2022

Cig Forums, The Final Solution for a Tight Draw, 2008, Online Forum (Year: 2009).

Related U.S. Application Data

Primary Examiner — Russell E Sparks

(62) Division of application No. 15/805,702, filed on Nov. 7, 2017, now Pat. No. 11,252,996.

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — IP Strategies

(60) Provisional application No. 62/421,050, filed on Nov. 11, 2016.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

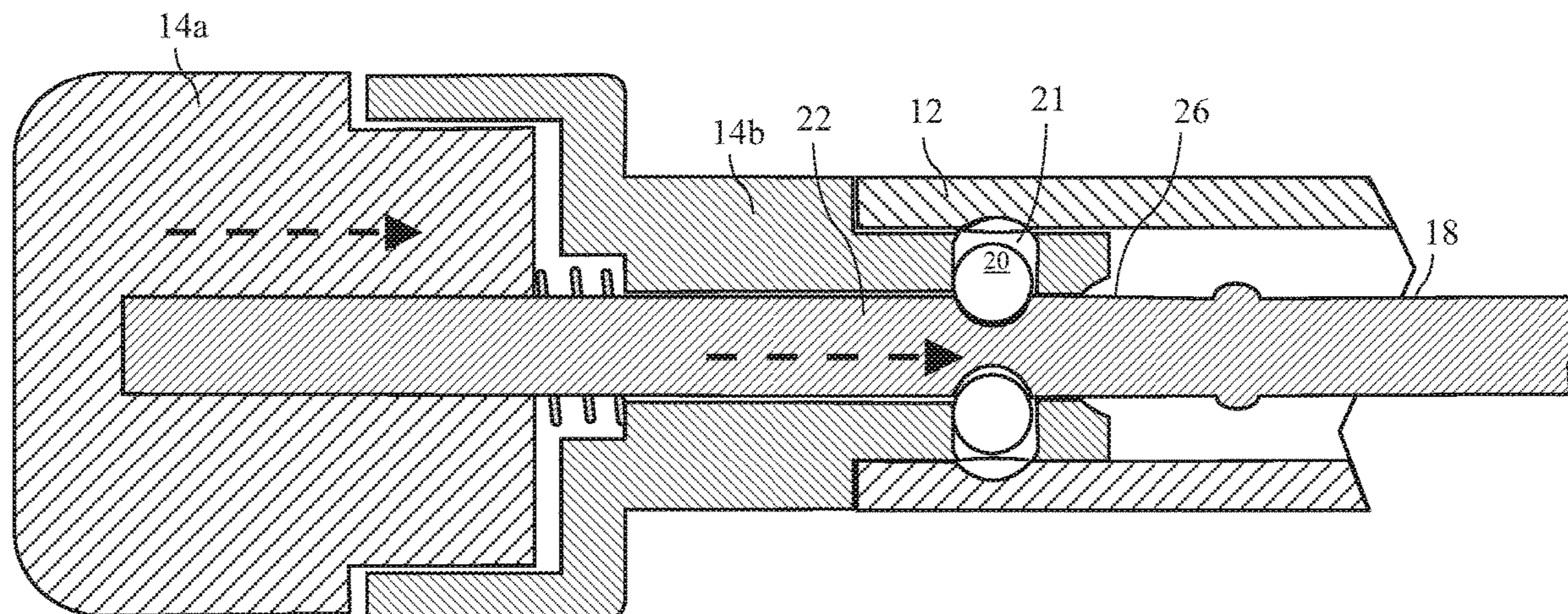
(51) **Int. Cl.**
A24F 13/26 (2006.01)

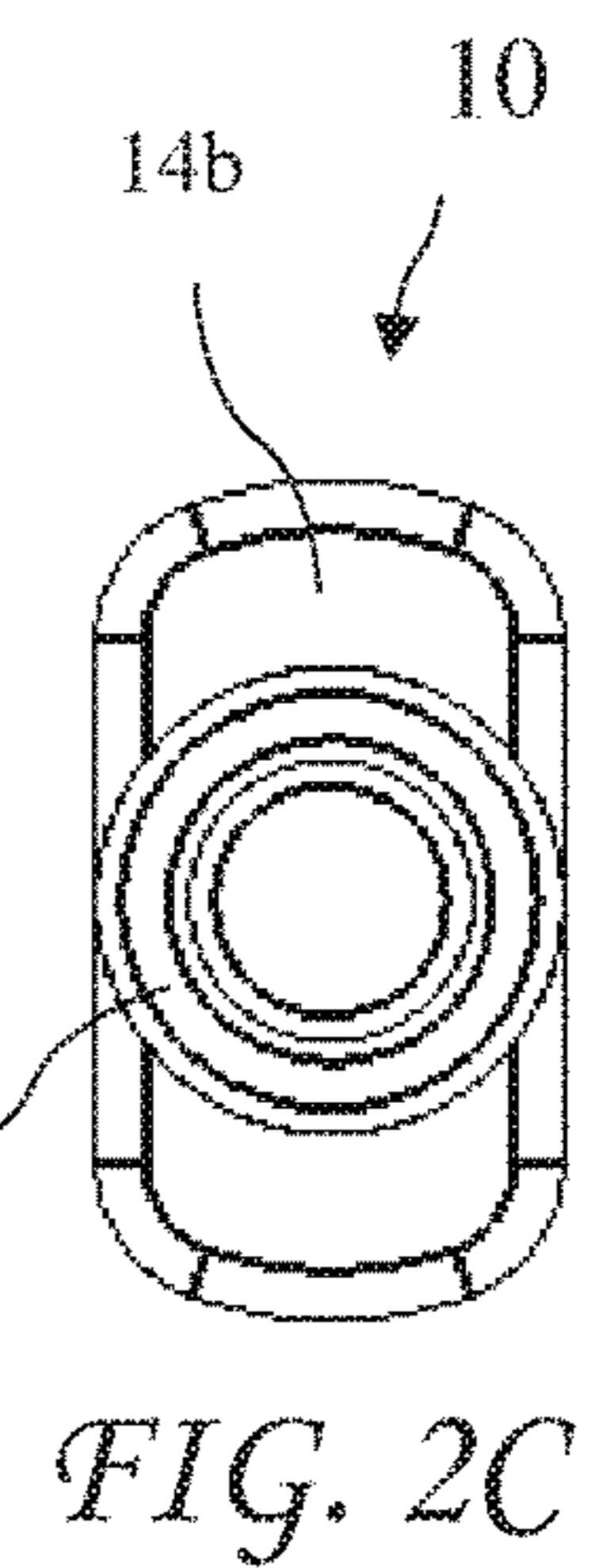
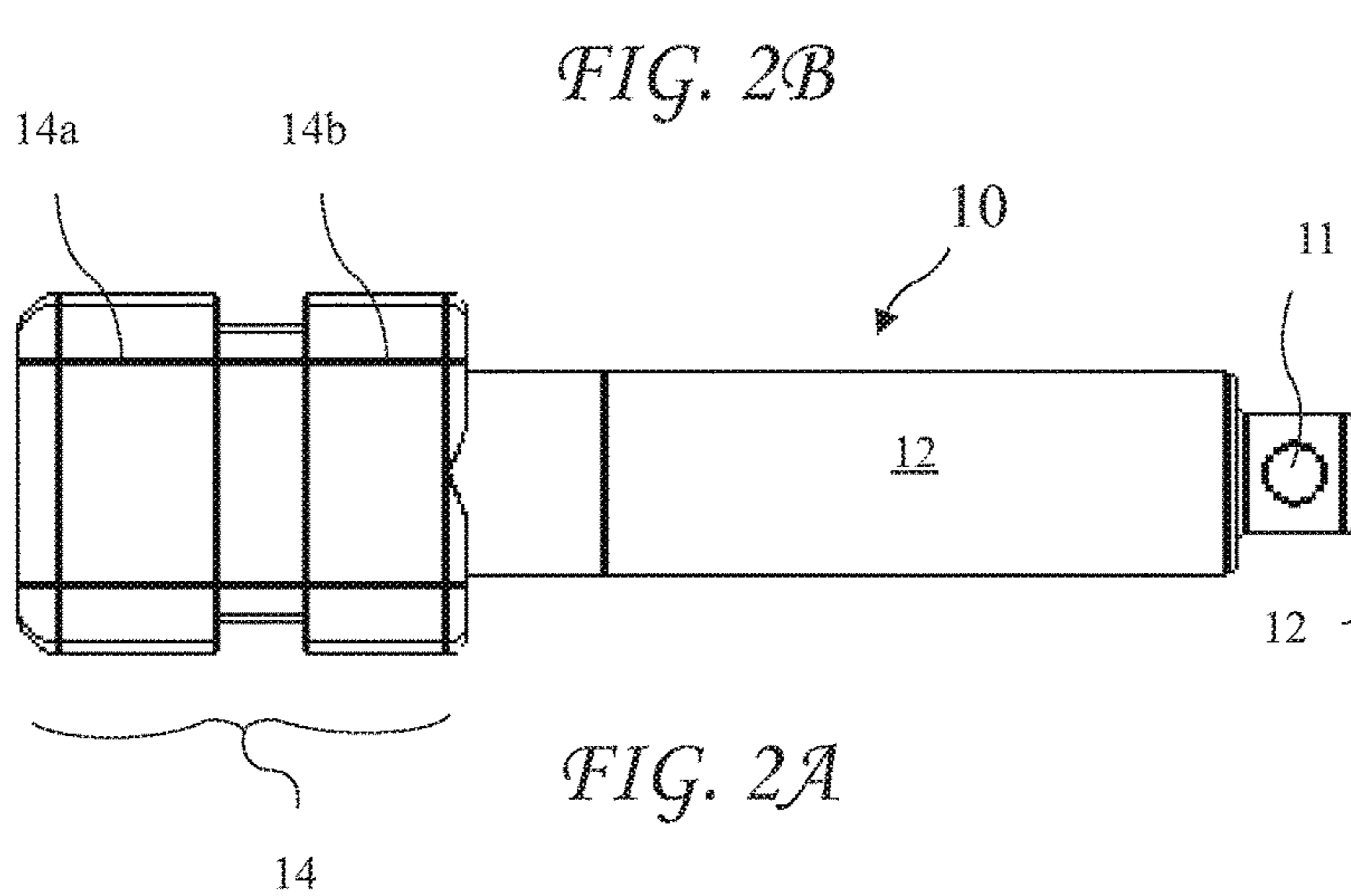
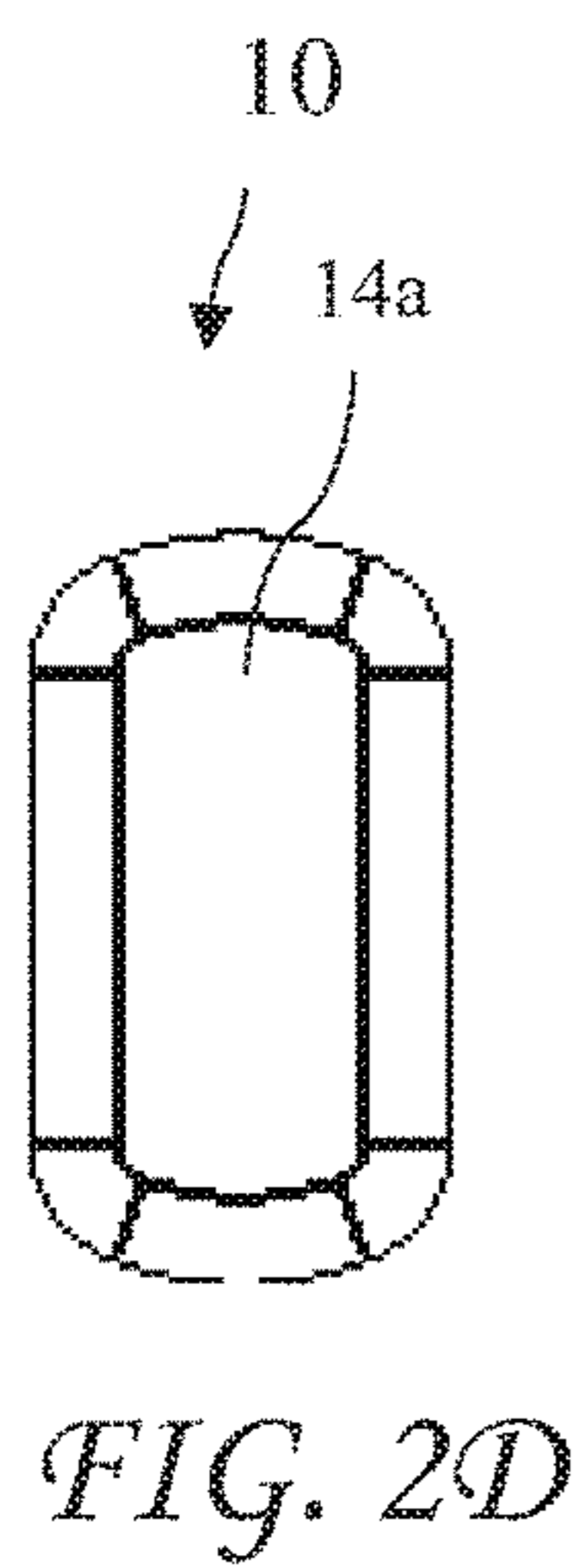
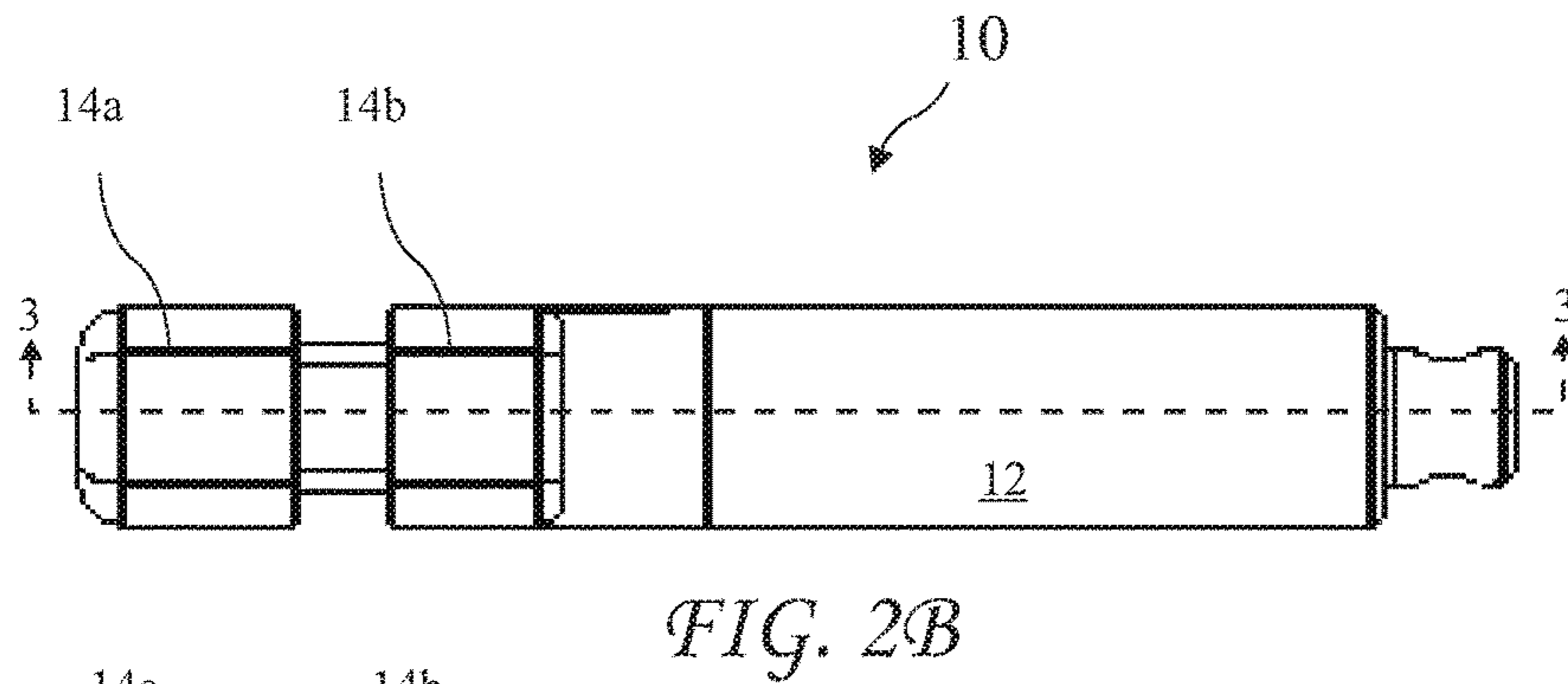
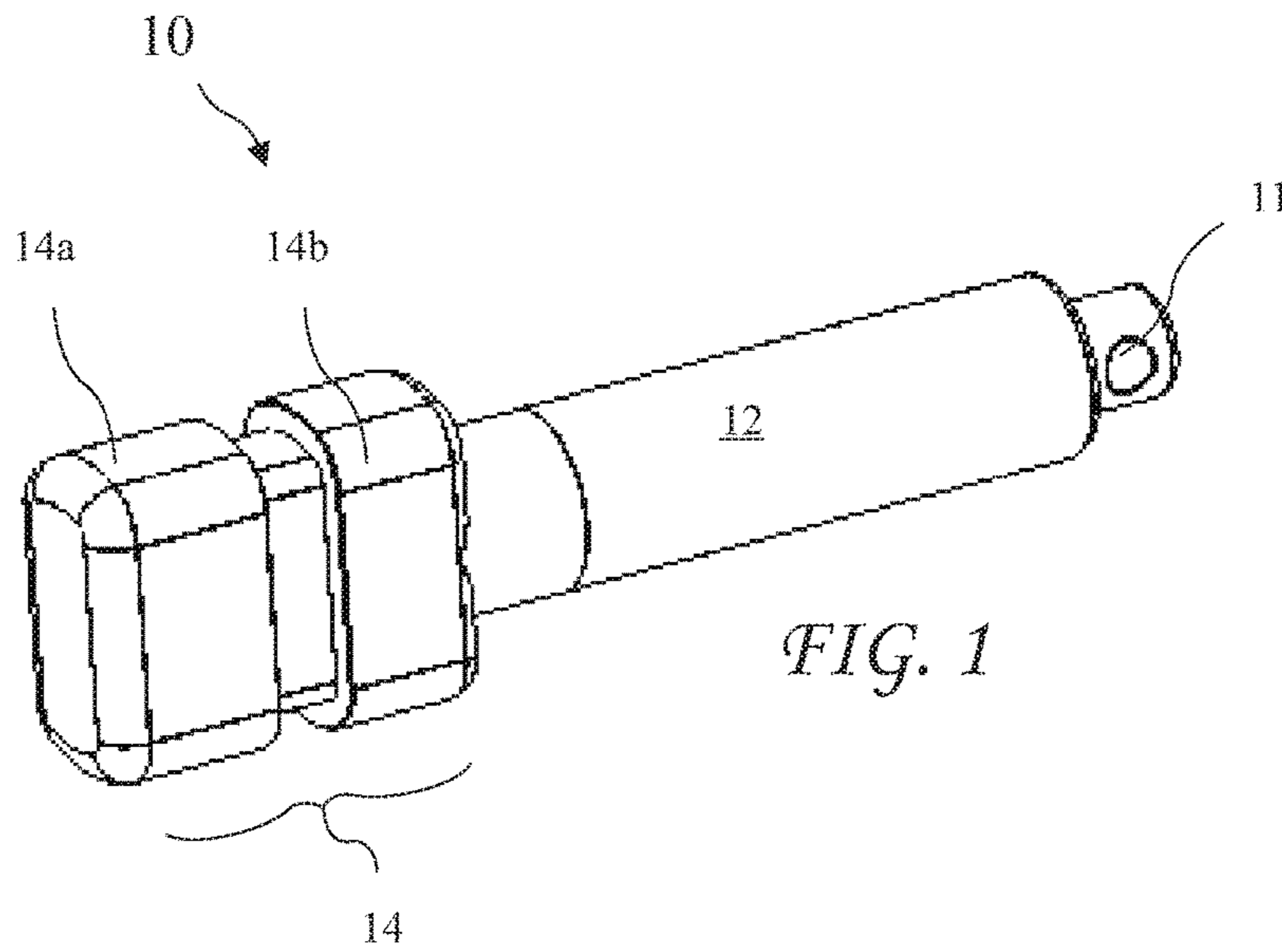
A cigar tool includes a piercing rod, a handle, and a cover attachable over the piercing rod. The piercing rod is pointed to penetrate a densely packed cigar. The handle includes a fixed portion and a sliding portion, and squeezing the fixed and sliding portions together releases the cover exposing the piercing rod. The cover may be a simple cylindrical key fob or an added feature of a cigar lighter or ash tray.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *A24F 13/26* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC *A24F 13/26*
See application file for complete search history.

18 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets





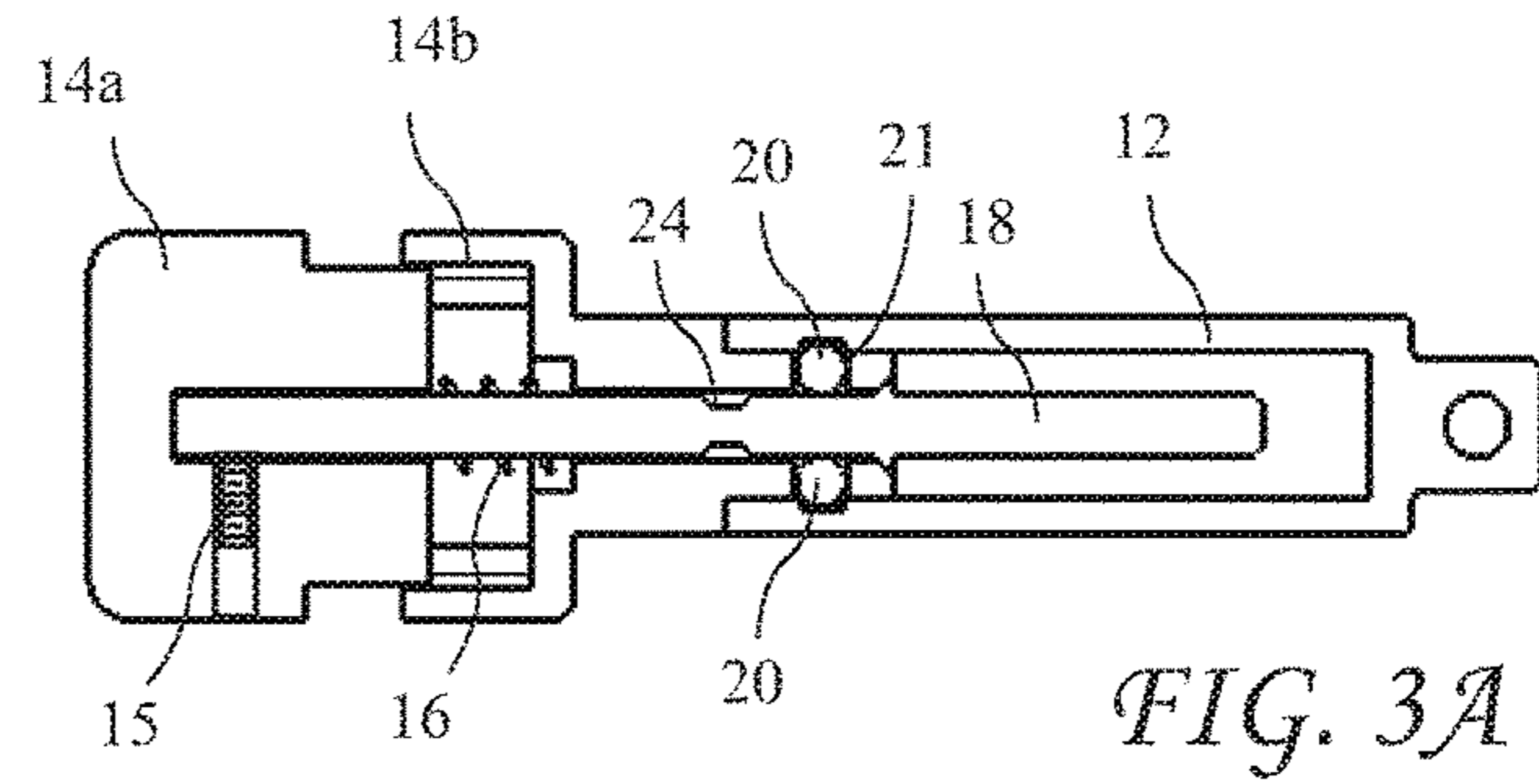


FIG. 3A

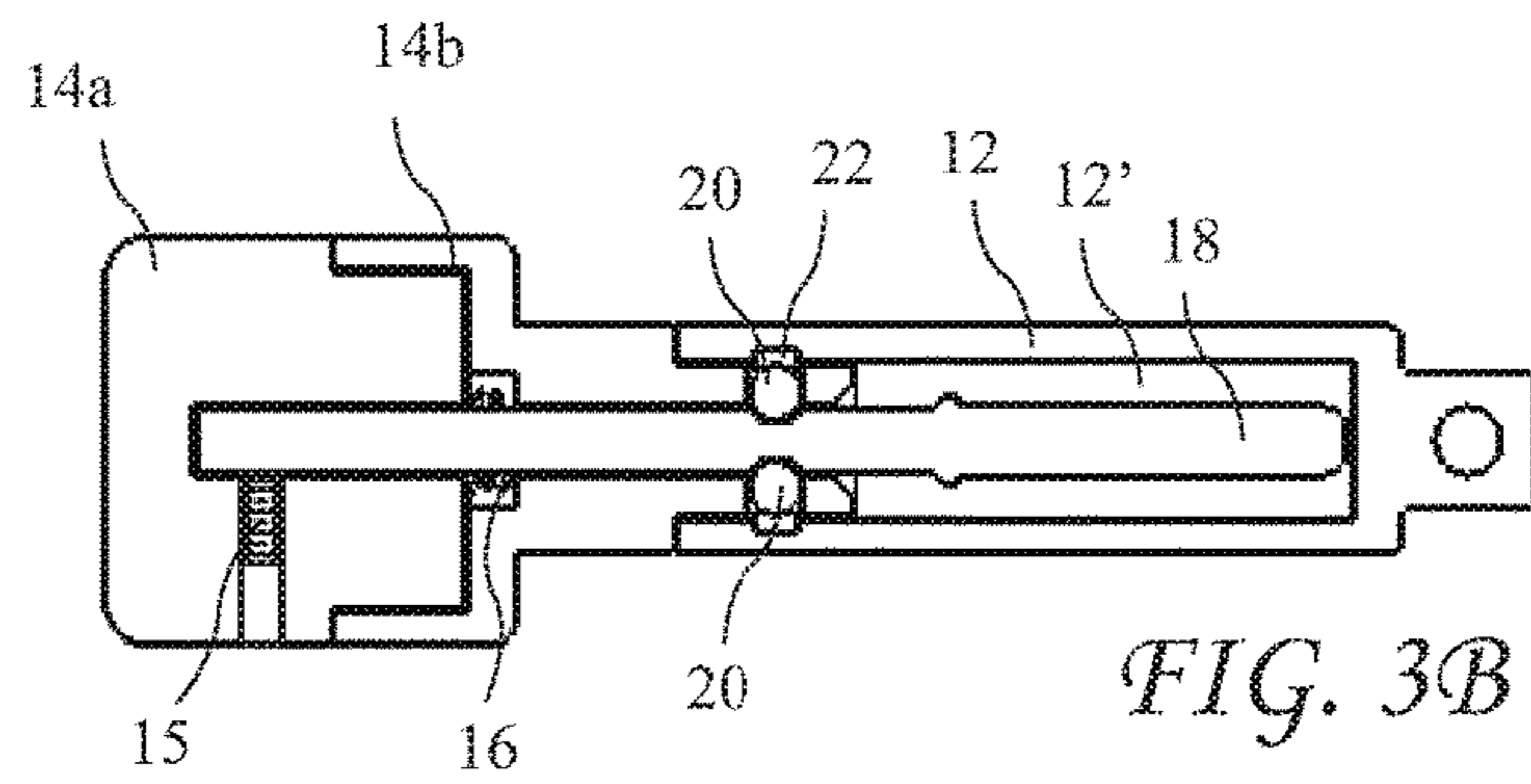


FIG. 3B

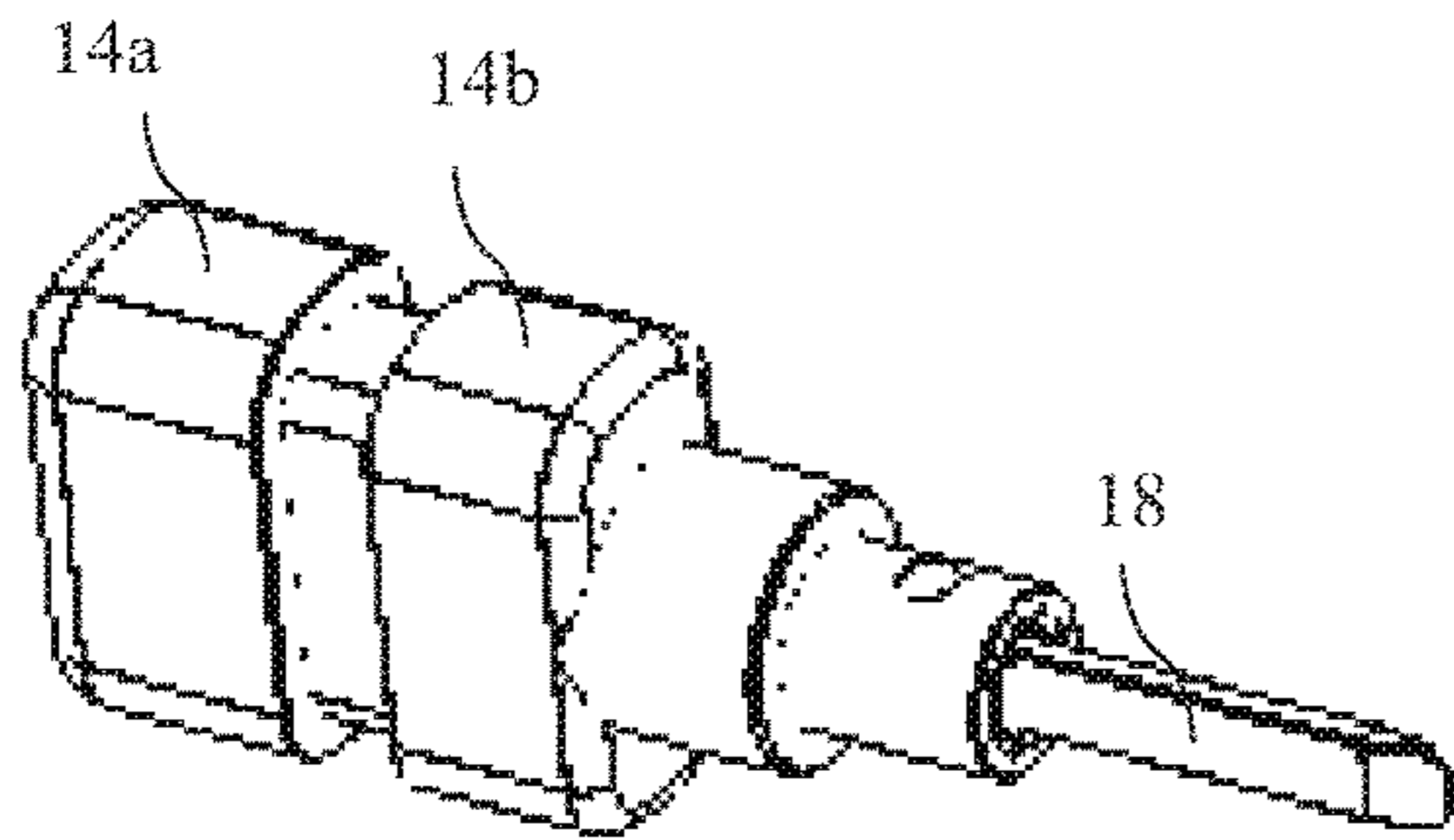


FIG. 4

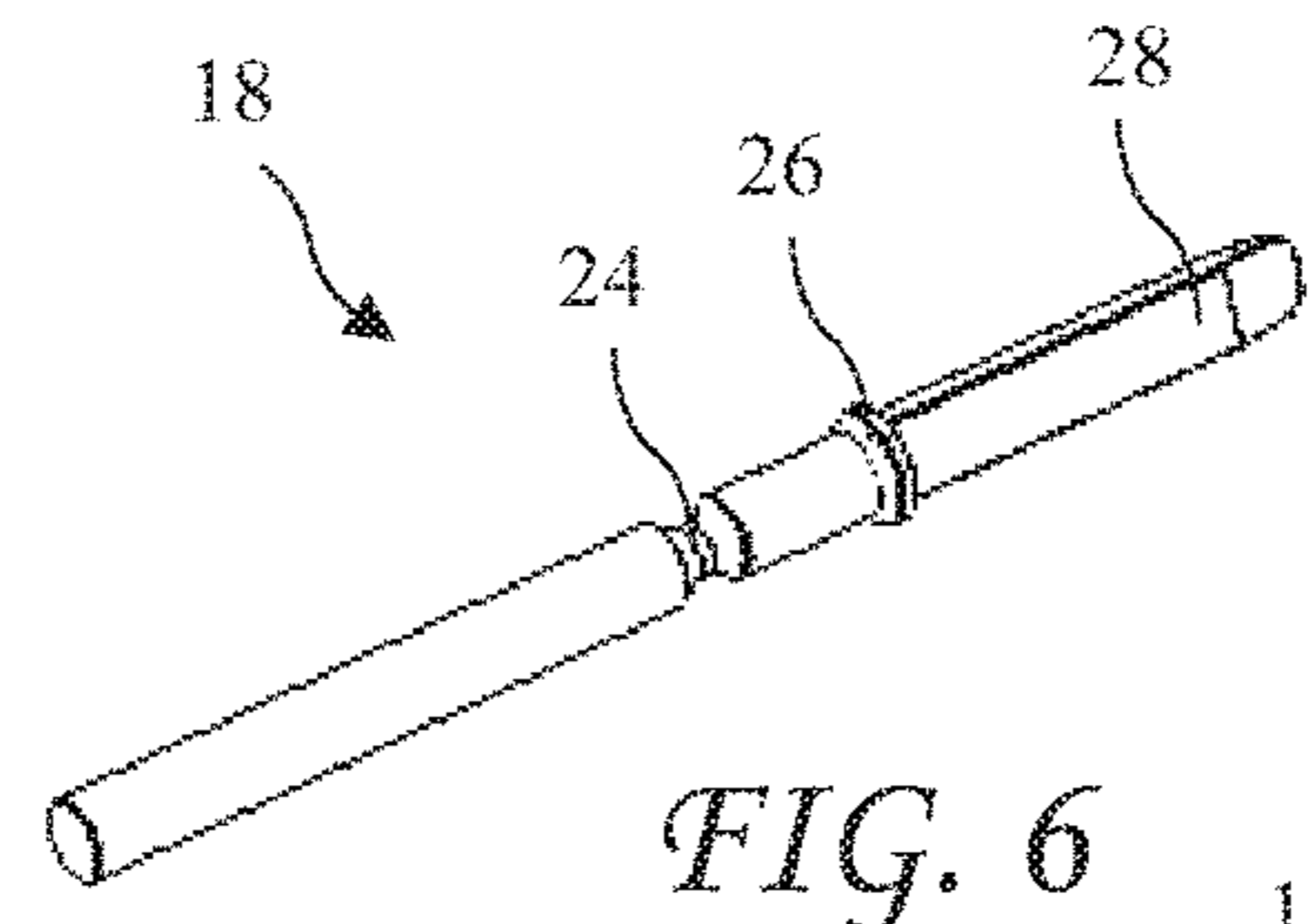


FIG. 6

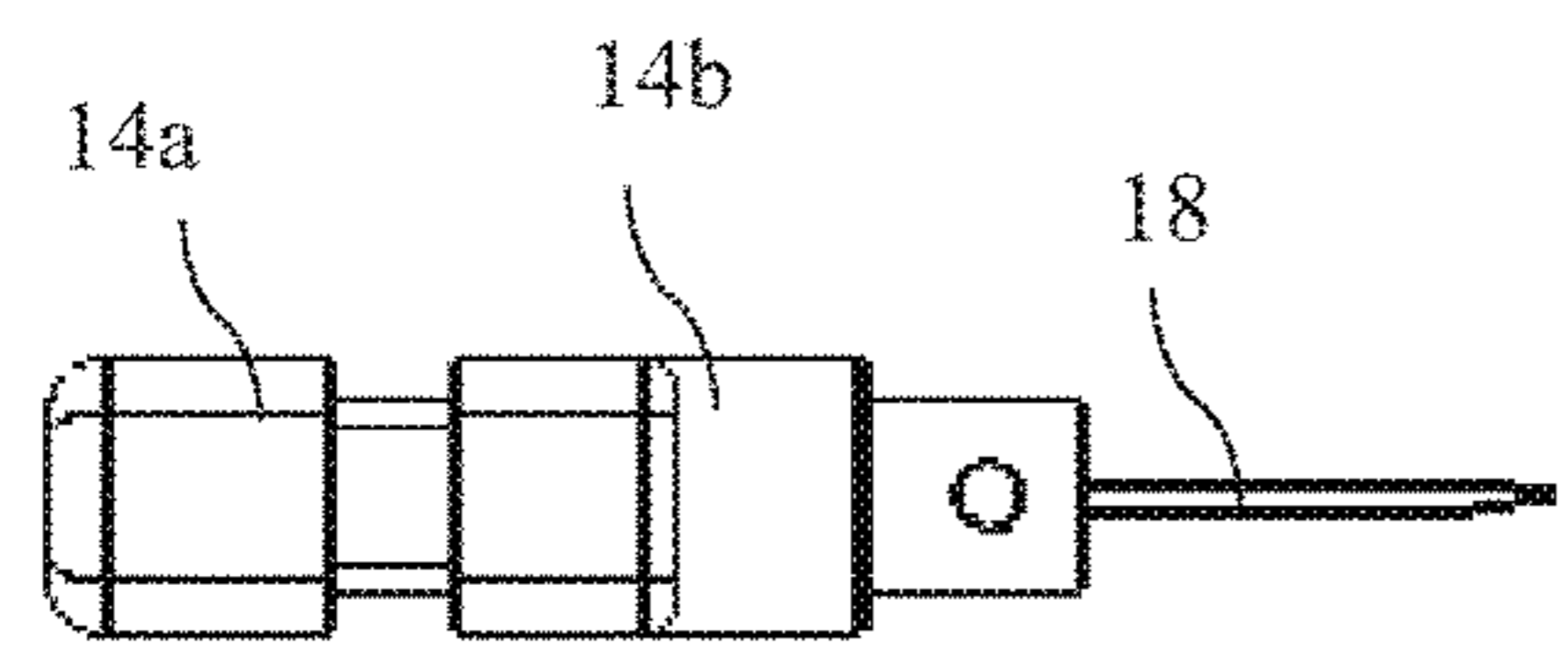


FIG. 5B

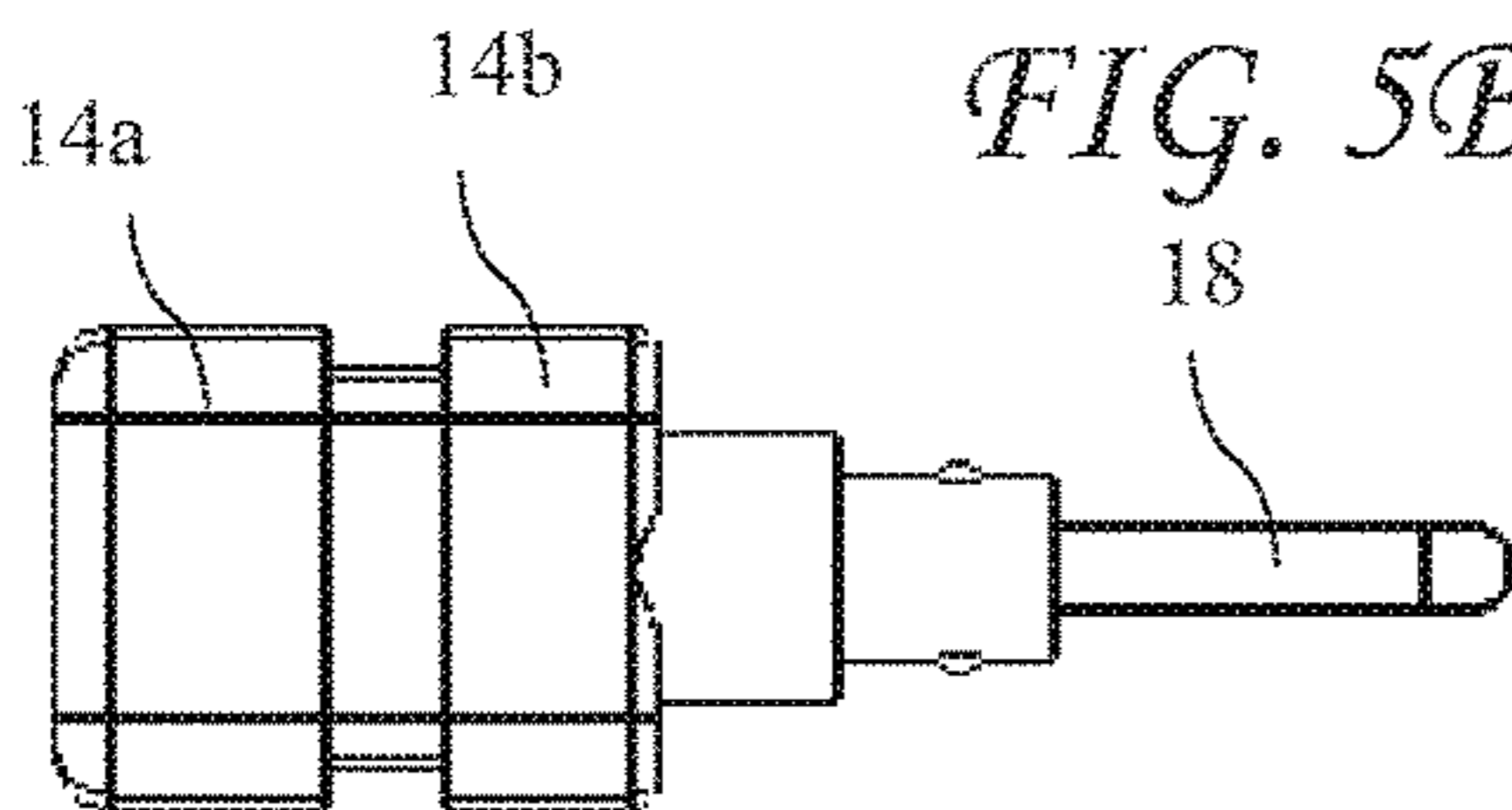


FIG. 5A

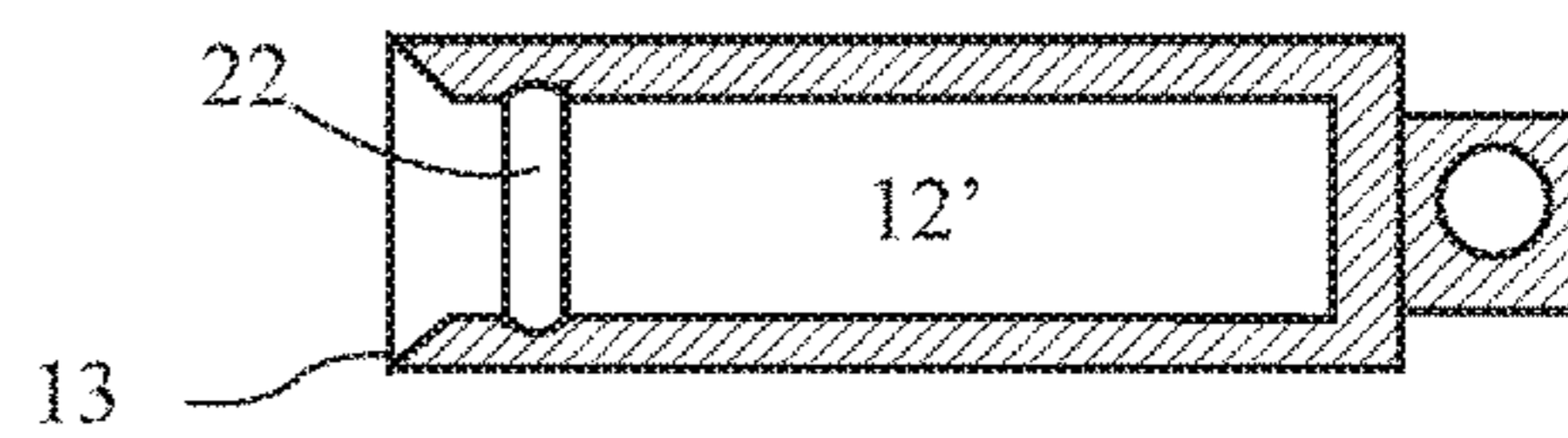


FIG. 7

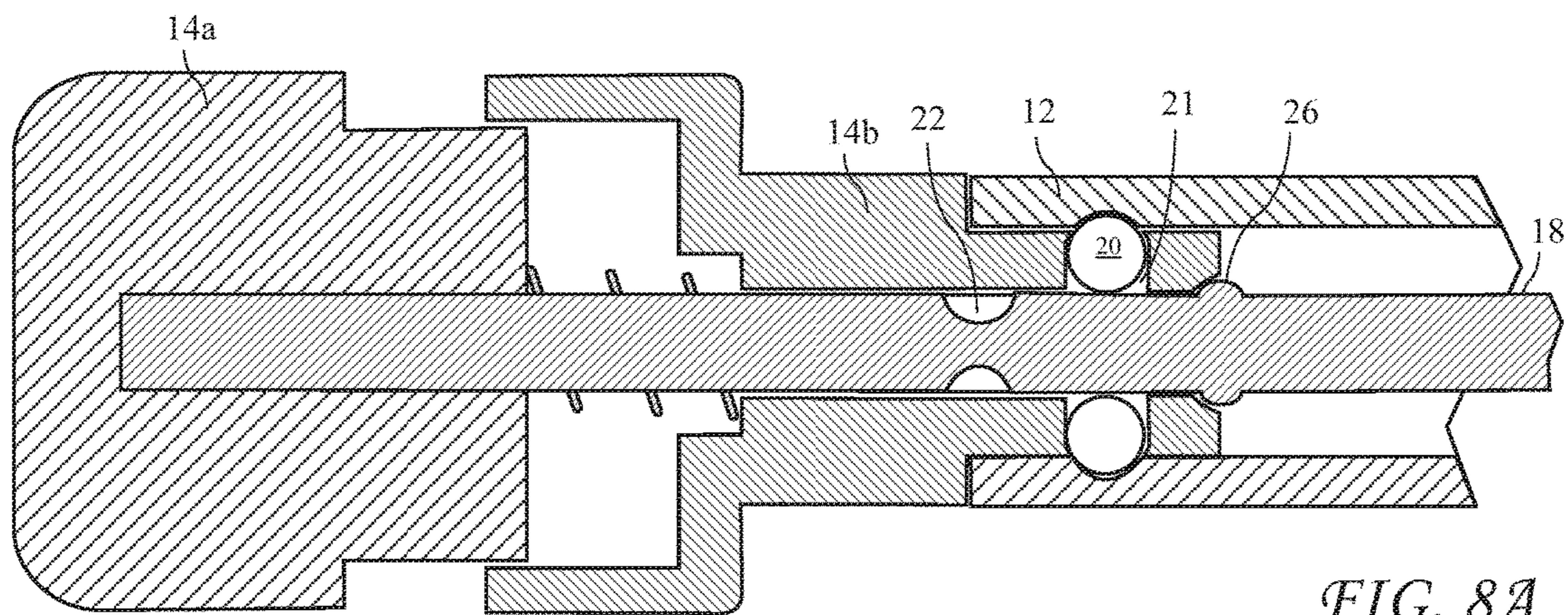


FIG. 8A

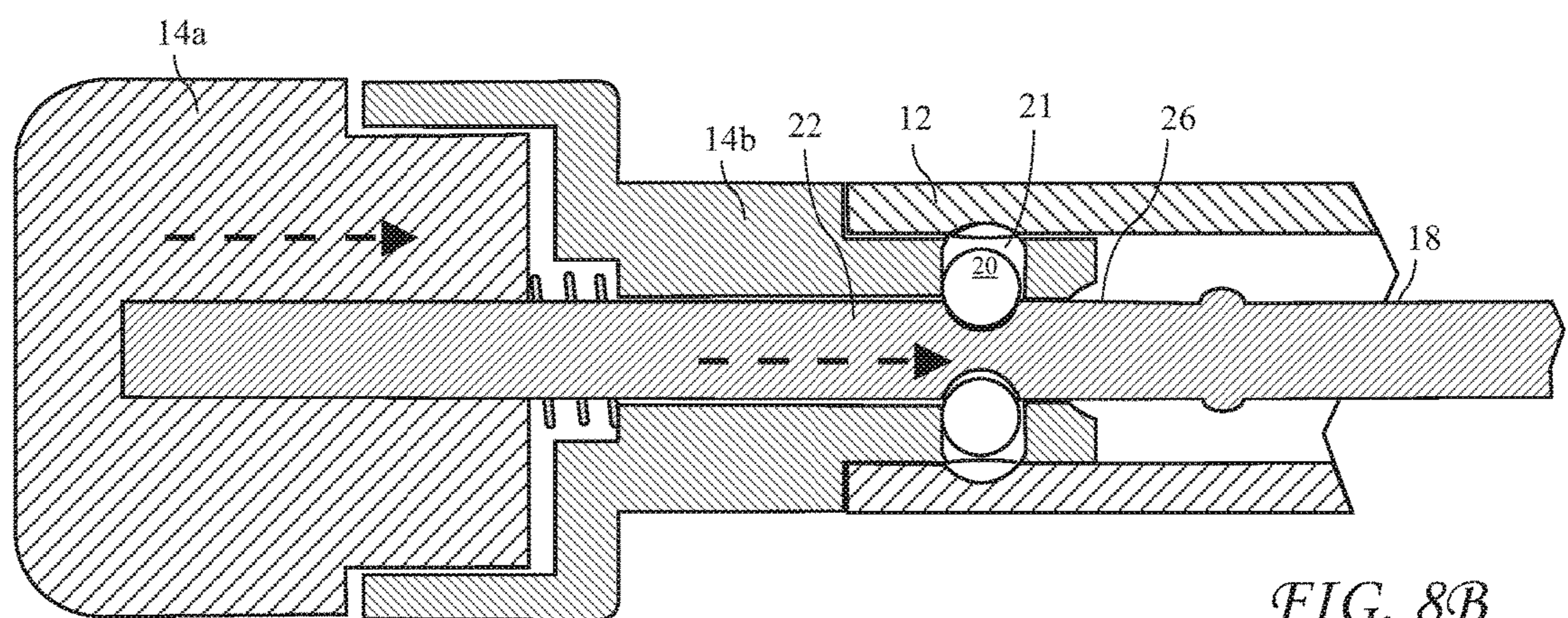


FIG. 8B

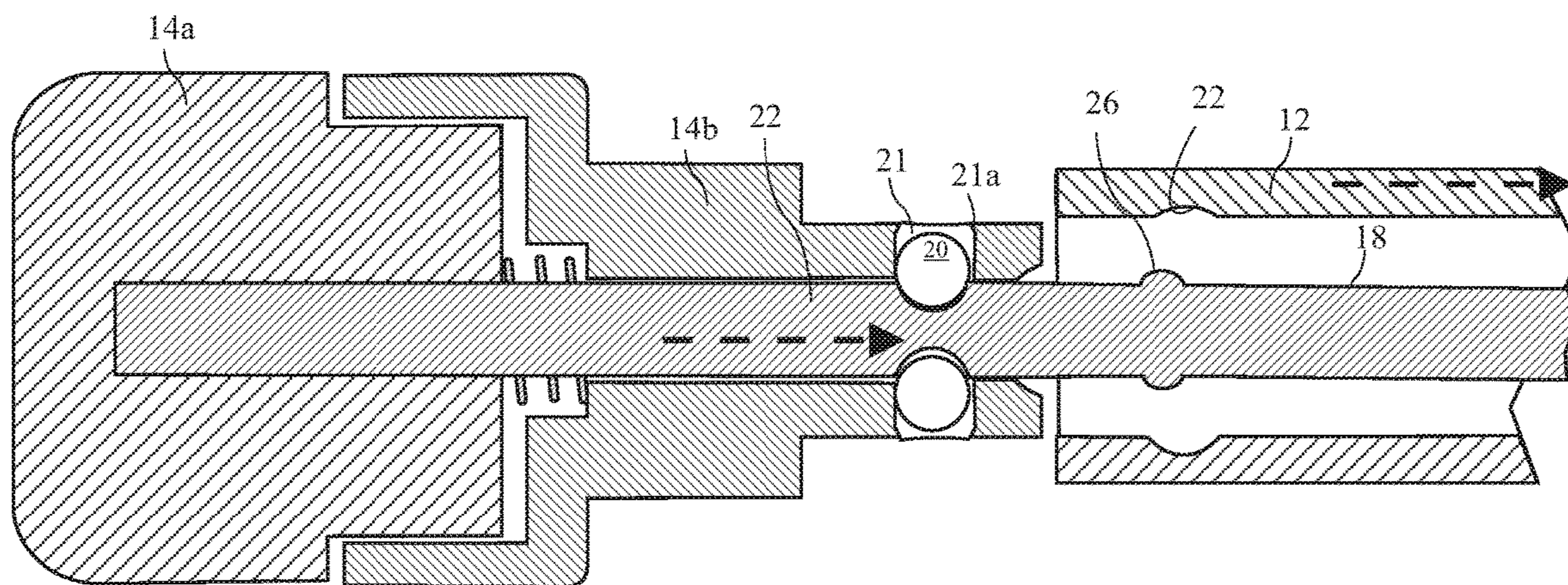


FIG. 8C

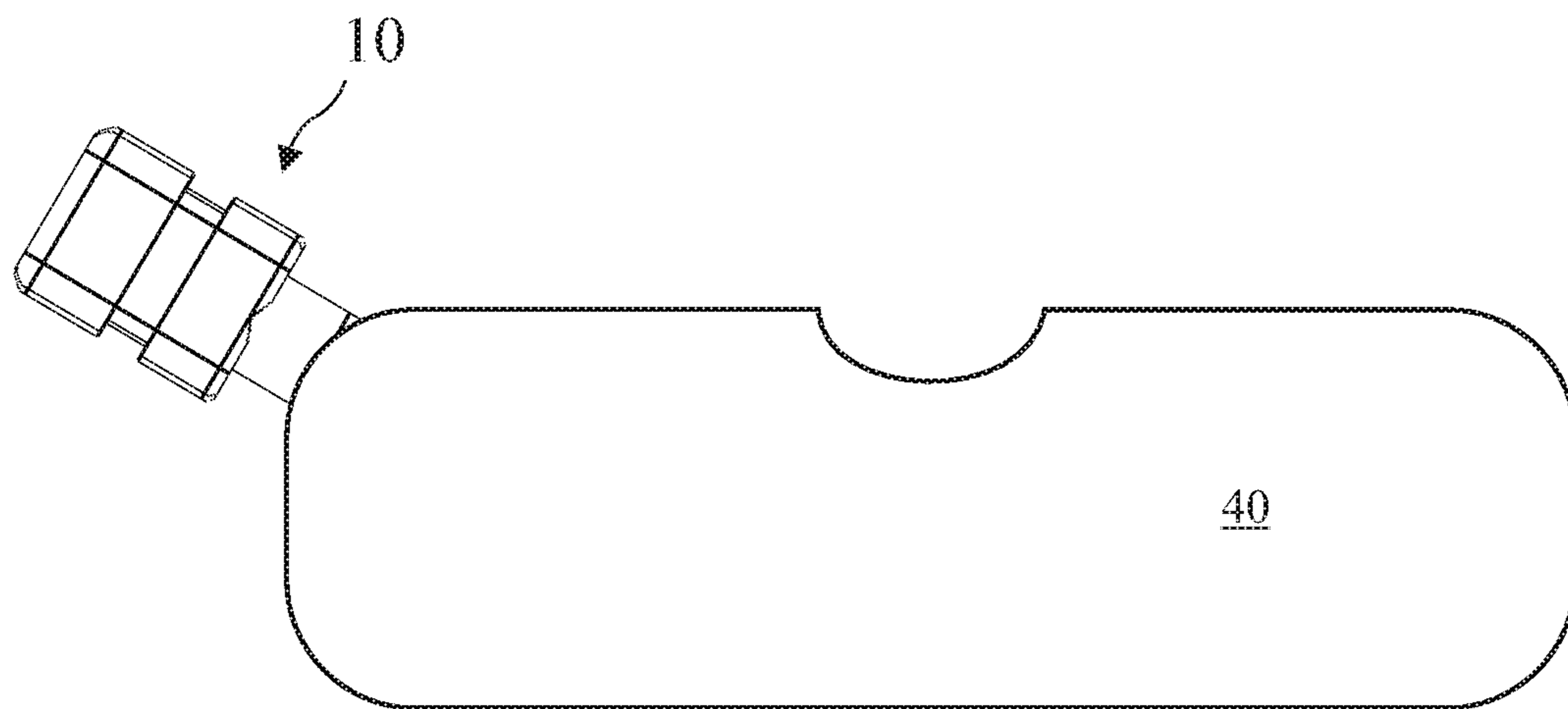


FIG. 9

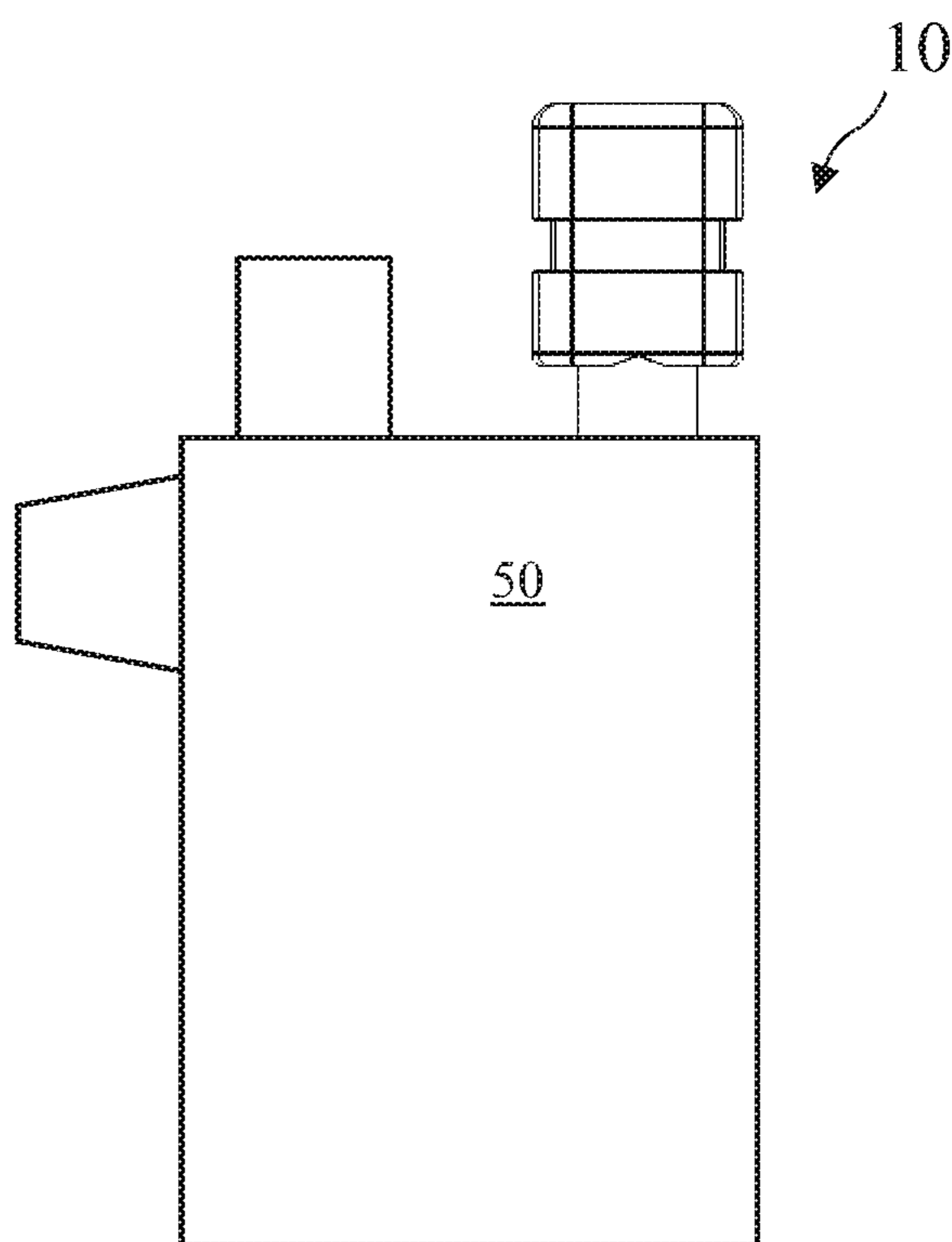


FIG. 10

METHOD OF PIERCING A CIGAR**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/805,702, which was filed on Nov. 7, 2017, which in turn claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application for Patent No. 62/421,050, which was filed on Nov. 11, 2016, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cigar smoking and in particular to a tool for piercing a cigar.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Some cigars are provided with densely packed tobacco leaves. It can be difficult to draw through the cigar without first creating a passage through the cigar. Cigar tools for making such a passage are known, but often expose a sharp end, or do not adequately prevent the sharp end from becoming unintentionally exposed.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention addresses the above and other needs by providing a cigar tool including a piercing rod, a handle, and a cover attachable over the piercing rod. The piercing rod is pointed to penetrate a densely packed cigar. The handle includes a fixed portion and a sliding portion, and squeezing the fixed and sliding portions together releases the cover exposing the piercing rod. The cover may be a simple cylindrical key fob or an added feature of a cigar lighter or ash tray.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for piercing a densely packed cigar. The method includes squeezing a sliding portion and a fixed portion of a cigar tool together, removing the piercer cover from over a piercer, and piercing a draw end of the cigar. The cigar tool includes a handle including a fixed portion and the sliding portion slidably engaging the fixed portion. The sliding portion includes a spring biasing the sliding portion away from the fixed portion, the piercer fixedly engaging the fixed portion of the handle and having an exposed portion extending through the sliding portion of the handle, an external ball recess in the piercer, and a ball passage through the sliding portion, the passage alignable with the external ball recess in the piercer. A piercer cover has an internal cavity slidably over the sliding portion to cover the piercer and an internal ball recess in the internal cavity of the piercer cover. At least one ball configured to slide radially in the ball passage. In a first sliding portion position, the sliding portion is biased away from the fixed portion by the spring and the ball passage is aligned with the internal ball recess and the ball passage is not aligned with the external ball recess of the piercer and the piercer cover is held on the sliding portion and over the piercer. In a second sliding portion position, sliding portion is pressed against the fixed portion and the ball passage through the sliding portion is aligned with the external ball recess of the piercer and the ball passage is not aligned with the internal ball recess in the piercer cover and the piercer cover is released. The piercer cover includes a cutting edge, and the method further including using the cutting edge to open a lit end of the cigar for lighting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other aspects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following more particular description thereof, presented in conjunction with the following drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a cigar tool according to the present invention.

FIG. 2A is a side view of the cigar tool according to the present invention.

FIG. 2B is a top view of the cigar tool according to the present invention.

FIG. 2C is a front view of the cigar tool according to the present invention.

FIG. 2D is a rear view of the cigar tool according to the present invention.

FIG. 3A is a cross-sectional view of the cigar tool according to the present invention taken long line 3-3 of FIG. 2B in a locked position.

FIG. 3B is a cross-sectional view of the cigar tool according to the present invention taken long line 3-3 of FIG. 2B in an unlocked position.

FIG. 4 is an isometric view of the cigar tool according to the present invention with a piercer cover removed.

FIG. 5A is a side view of the cigar tool according to the present invention with a piercer cover removed.

FIG. 5B is a top view of the cigar tool according to the present invention with a piercer cover removed.

FIG. 6 is an isometric view of the piercer according to the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of a piercer cover according to the present invention with a cutting edge.

FIG. 8A shows a partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool according to the present invention locked.

FIG. 8B shows a partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool according to the present invention unlocked.

FIG. 8C shows a partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool according to the present invention unlocked and the piercer cover partially removed.

FIG. 9 shows the cigar tool according to the present invention combined with an ashtray.

FIG. 10 shows the cigar tool according to the present invention combined with a cigar lighter.

Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding components throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following description is of the best mode presently contemplated for carrying out the invention. This description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, but is made merely for the purpose of describing one or more preferred embodiments of the invention. The scope of the invention should be determined with reference to the claims.

An isometric view of a cigar tool 10 according to the present invention is shown in FIG. 1, a side view of the cigar tool 10 is shown in FIG. 2A, a top view of the cigar tool 10 is shown in FIG. 2B, a front view of the cigar tool 10 is shown in FIG. 2C, and rear view of the cigar tool 10 is shown in FIG. 2D. The cigar tool 10 includes a handle 14 comprising a fixed portion 14a and a sliding portion 14b, and a removable piercer cover 12. The piercer cover 12 is preferably generally cylindrical and may include a key ring passage 11 allowing the cigar tool 10 to be used as a key fob. The piercer cover 12 resides over a piercer 18 (see FIG. 6).

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A cross-sectional view of the cigar tool **10** taken along line **3-3** of FIG. **2B** in a locked position is shown in FIG. **3A** and a cross-sectional view of the cigar tool **10** taken along line **3-3** of FIG. **2B** in an unlocked position is shown in FIG. **3B**. At least one detent, for example, at least one ball **20** resides in a ball passage **21** (also see FIG. **8A**) of the sliding portion **14b**. In the locked position, the ball **20** is forced by the piercer **18** to partially enter an internal ball recess **22** in a cover cavity **12a** of the piercer cover **12**, locking the piercer cover **12** onto the sliding portion **14b**. A spring **16** biases the sliding portion **14b** to the locked position.

In FIG. **3B**, the sliding portion **14b** is moved to the left compressing the spring **16** and aligning the ball passage **21** with a piercer ball recess **24**, allowing the ball **20** to disengage from the internal ball recess **22** of the cover **12**. The cover **12** is then free to be removed from the holder **14**. The piercer **18** is shown attached to the fixed portion **14a** of the handle **14**, by a set screw **15**, but may alternatively be attached by threads, an interference fit, adhesive, or the like. Those skilled in the art may recognize other methods of attaching the piercer **18** to the fixed portion **14**, and a cigar tool including another such method is intended to come within the scope of the present invention.

An isometric view of the cigar tool **10** with the piercer cover **12** removed is shown in FIG. **4**, a side view of the cigar tool **10** with the piercer cover **12** removed is shown in FIG. **5A**, and a top view of the cigar tool **10** with the piercer cover **12** removed is shown in FIG. **5B**. The piercer **18** is shown exposed for use.

An isometric view of the piercer **18** is shown in FIG. **6**. The piercer **18** includes the piercer ball recess **24**, a piercer stop ring **26**, and a piercing portion **28**. The piercing portion **28** may be used to pierce a cigar end to allow a smoker to draw smoke from the cigar, or may be used to pierce the base of a cigar as a holder to avoid burning the smokers fingers as the cigar burns near the cigar end. The piercing portion **28** preferably has a square or rectangular cross-section to prevent the cigar from rotating while held by the piercer, but may have a round, oval, or other cross-section.

A cross-sectional view of the piercer cover **12** with a cutting edge **13** is shown in FIG. **7**. The piercer passage **12'** may be cylindrical and the internal ball recess may be an annular recess, allowing the piercer cover **12** to rotate when residing over the piercer and when engaging the handle, or the piercer passage **12'** may conform to the cross-section of the piercer to angularly align the piercer cover with the piercer, or the internal ball recess may be at least one internal dimple in the passage **12'**, attaching the piercer cover **12** to rotationally fix the piercer cover when residing over the piercer. The cutting edge **13** allows the piercer cover **12** to be used, for example, to open the end of the cigar for lighting.

A detailed partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool **10** locked is shown in FIG. **8A**, detailed a partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool **10** unlocked with the piercer cover **12** in place is shown in FIG. **8B**, and detailed a partial cross-sectional view of the cigar tool **10** unlocked and the piercer cover **12** partially removed is shown in FIG. **8C**. Sliding the sliding portion **14b** of the holder **12** to the left allows the balls **20** to escape the internal ball recesses **22**, and the piercer cover **12** to be separated from the handle **14** exposing the piercer **18**.

The cigar tool **10** combined with an ashtray **40**, and the cigar tool **10** combined with a cigar lighter **50** are shown in FIGS. **9** and **10**. The ashtray **40** and the cigar lighter **50** replace the piercer cover **12** and includes the passage **12'** shown in FIG. **7**. The cigar tool **10** is attachable to and

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removable from the ashtray **40** and the cigar lighter **50** as shown in FIGS. **8A-8C**. Those skilled in the art will recognize various other products suitable for cooperation with the cigar cutter **10**, and any combination of a cigar cutter and product covering the piercer **18** as described herein is intended to come within the scope of the present invention.

While the invention herein disclosed has been described by means of specific embodiments and applications thereof, numerous modifications and variations could be made thereto by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention set forth in the claims.

I claim:

1. A method of piercing a cigar, the method comprising: squeezing together a sliding portion and a fixed portion of a handle of a cigar tool, the cigar tool including: the handle, including the fixed portion, and the sliding portion configured to slidably engage the fixed portion; a spring configured to bias the relative position of the sliding portion and the fixed portion; a piercer attached to the fixed portion of the handle and having an exposed portion configured to extend through the sliding portion of the handle, wherein the piercer is configured to pierce through a cigar; a piercer cover configured to slide over the piercer to engage the sliding portion and conceal a tip of the piercer; and a detent retained in the sliding portion and engaging the piercer cover; wherein the piercer cover includes a first recess configured to engage the detent; wherein the spring is configured to bias the sliding portion and the fixed portion in a locked position, thereby preventing the piercer cover from disengaging the sliding portion; and wherein the sliding portion is configured to be moved to overcome the spring bias in an unlocked position, thereby allowing the piercer cover to disengage from the sliding portion only in the unlocked position; the method further comprising removing the piercer cover from over the piercer; and piercing the cigar using the piercer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the piercer cover includes a cutting edge, the method further comprising using the cutting edge to open an end of the cigar.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the cutting edge of the piercer cover abuts the sliding portion of the tool in the locked position.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein: the piercer includes a second recess and a stop ring and in the locked position, and the detent and the stop ring cooperate to prevent the second recess from engaging the detent.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the piercer includes a second recess, configured to engage the detent when the sliding portion is moved to overcome the spring bias in the unlocked position.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the sliding portion is arranged in a fixed rotational position with respect to the fixed portion.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein: the sliding portion has a first non-round cross-section; and the fixed portion has a second non-round cross-section.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein an internal cavity of the piercer cover is shaped to prevent the piercer cover from rotating with respect to the piercer.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the piercer cover includes an opening having a cutting edge.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein an internal cavity of the piercer cover is shaped to prevent the piercer cover from rotating with respect to the piercer.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the piercer cover includes an opening having a cutting edge.

12. A method of piercing a cigar, the method comprising: squeezing together sliding means and fixed means of a handle of a cigar tool, the cigar tool including:

the handle, including the fixed means, and the sliding means for slidably engaging the fixed means;

bias means for biasing the relative position of the sliding means and the fixed means in a locked position, thereby preventing the piercer cover from disengaging the sliding portion;

piercing means for piercing through a cigar, attached to the fixed means of the handle and having an exposed portion for extending through the sliding means of the handle;

cover means for sliding over the piercing means to engage the sliding means and conceal a tip of the piercing means; and

detent means for engaging the cover means, retained in the sliding means;

wherein the cover means includes a first recess for engaging the detent means; and

wherein the sliding means is movable to overcome the biasing means in an unlocked position, thereby allowing the cover means to disengage from the sliding means only in the unlocked position;

the method further comprising removing the cover means from over the piercing means; and

piercing the cigar using the piercing means.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cover means includes a cutting edge, the method further comprising using the cutting edge to open an end of the cigar.

14. A method of piercing a cigar, the method comprising: squeezing together a sliding portion and a fixed portion of a handle of a cigar tool, the cigar tool including:

the handle, including the fixed portion, and the sliding portion configured to slidably engage the fixed portion;

a spring configured to bias the relative position of the sliding portion and the fixed portion;

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a piercer attached to the fixed portion of the handle and having an exposed portion configured to extend through the sliding portion of the handle, wherein the piercer is configured to pierce through a cigar;

a piercer cover configured to slide over the piercer to engage the sliding portion and conceal a tip of the piercer; and

a detent retained in the sliding portion and engaging the piercer cover;

wherein the piercer cover includes a first recess configured to engage the detent;

wherein the spring is configured to bias the sliding portion and the fixed portion in a locked position, thereby preventing the piercer cover from disengaging the sliding portion;

wherein the sliding portion is configured to be moved to overcome the spring bias in an unlocked position, thereby allowing the piercer cover to disengage from the sliding portion only in the unlocked position;

wherein the piercer includes a second recess and a stop ring and in the locked position, the detent and the stop ring cooperate to prevent the second recess from engaging the detent;

wherein the second recess is further configured to engage the detent when the sliding portion is moved to overcome the spring bias in the unlocked position; and

wherein the sliding portion of the handle includes a passage in which the detent is arranged;

the method further comprising removing the piercer cover from over the piercer; and

piercing the cigar using the piercer.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the piercer cover includes a cutting edge, the method further comprising using the cutting edge to open an end of the cigar.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the cutting edge of the piercer cover abuts the sliding portion of the tool in the locked position.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the sliding portion is arranged in a fixed rotational position with respect to the fixed portion.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein: the sliding portion has a first non-round cross-section; and the fixed portion has a second non-round cross-section.

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